

Envision Carlsbad Citizens Committee

Minutes

December 8, 2010

1635 Faraday Avenue, Carlsbad
Room 173B

Committee Present

Primary Members

Jim Farley (Vice-Chair)	Hap L'Heureux	Mike Howes
Robert Gates	Jeannie Sprague-Bentley	Sean Bentley
Fred Sandquist	Julie Baker	Allen Sweet
Jeff Segall		

Alternate Members

Jack Cumming	Tina Schmidt	Dr. Anne Spacie
Jim Bradley	Guy Roney	Jim Bradley

Absent: John O'Reilly (Primary), Greg Nelson (Primary), Glen Etherington (Alternate), Chris Korogi (Alternate), Sean Sexton (Alternate), Robert Nielsen (Alternate)

City of Carlsbad Staff

Gary Barberio – Community & Economic Development Director
Don Neu – Planning Director
David de Cordova – Principal Planner
Chris DeCerbo – Principal Planner
Jennifer Jesser – Senior Planner
Rachel McGuire – Community Coordinator
Mark Steyaert – Parks Development Manager
David Hauser – Property and Environmental Manager
Mike Grim – Senior Planner
Elaine Lukey – Storm Water Manager
Steve Jantz – Associate Engineer
Liz Ketabian – Park Planner
Kyle Lancaster – Parks Superintendent
Mick Calarco – Recreation Services Manager
Barbara Nedros – Administrative Assistant

Consultant

Rajeev Bhatia – Dyett & Bhatia
Carey Fernandez – Dudek
Sandra Holder

Public/other attendees – There were five members of the public present

Vice-Chair Jim Farley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Minutes from November 10, 2010 EC3 Meeting

The minutes from the November 10, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented by a unanimous vote of the Committee.

2. Review Working Paper #3: Open Space and The Natural Environment; Access to Recreation and Active, Healthy Lifestyles

Rajeev Bhatia started the presentation on Working Paper #3 and then introduced Carey Fernandez from Dudek who talked about the key issues for the General Plan and gave the Committee information regarding the habitats, open space, beaches, lagoons and the parks within the City of Carlsbad.

The Committee had some discussion about stewardship principles, the definition of open space and the way the different organizations (Fish & Game, State, etc.) control the habitat and open spaces within the city.

The Committee felt that the City needs definitions to communicate the different types of open space.

The Committee started the discussion on the questions presented. This exercise took approximately 75 minutes. Notes of the Committee's discussion are attached to these minutes.

Sandra Holder informed the Committee that the next meeting will be held on January 26, 2011 and that they would be reviewing Working Paper #4 on The Arts and Cultural Resources; High Quality Education and Community.

3. EC3 Feedback

Sandra Holder asked the Committee if the format that was used for this meeting was better for them than at the last meeting. The Committee indicated that the format currently be used was satisfactory.

4. Public Comment

Questions from the public included opportunities for community gardens and the process for receiving community input in the process.

Jim Farley adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Attachment – Committee Discussion Notes of Working Paper #3 – Open Space and The Natural Environment; Access to Recreation and Active, Healthy Lifestyles

ENVISION CARLSBAD CITIZENS' COMMITTEE
Working Paper #3 – Open Space and the Natural Environment;
Access to Recreation and Active, Healthy Lifestyles Charted Notes
December 8, 2010

Open Space Quantity vs. Access; Balancing Lagoon Environmental and Recreational Use

Question 1: Should the city focus on increasing the amount of designated open space within the city's network or focus on access, connections, use and conserving a full range of habitat types?

Question 2: How might the city's lagoons and other natural areas such as canyons and habitat preserves evolve to balance the recreation and conservation needs of the community? Is there a desire to expand recreational uses of these natural areas? Is there a desire for increased access from the city's existing trail network? How can the educational programs offered today expand and grow?

Comments

Official offices for habitat there to protect and keep people out which creates a conflict

Need educational programs regarding habitat and trails

Need more access and build trails

Effort to pursue grants; partnership of city

There is a desire for an interconnected trail system

There is difficulty to keep people on trails

Need definitions to communicate that there are different kinds of open space – Active vs. Passive

People use trails for specific reasons – they do not think about what category of open space they are walking through

General public that come to Planning Commission talk of open space as areas that will not have buildings on them

Difficult to have parks and open space lumped together

Public does not think of parks, golf course as open space

Need different set of definitions to better reflect uses of open space

Public perception of open space is to prohibit development

What do people want open space for? What about usage?

Community gardens get more activity – can we have community gardens along trails

Use what we have better and more vs. acquiring more

50% of open space is for habitat that does not want public access

Parks Standards; Parks Access; Challenges of Parks Planning for infill

Question 3: Are the existing Growth Management Plan parks performance standards appropriate, or should they be adjusted? Is the amount/type of parkland provided in the city meeting the needs of Carlsbad residents? Should the General Plan update consider new park standards based on factors other than size, such as walking distances, park condition, amenities, or the recreational needs of a particular neighborhood or group of residents?

Question 4: Which areas still have access issues after planned parks are completed?

Question 5: As the city transitions from a period of growth to one of infill and revitalization, population may grow in existing developed areas such as the Barrio and the Village, which may lead to the need to consider more local parks

to meet community need. What strategies should the city consider to ensure sufficient park resources in infill areas?

Comments

If city is counting schools as parks then they need to be accessible on weekends, afternoons for group sports

Should have connection between cul-de-sacs

How does parks being used by non-residents factor into the planning for parks

Structured use (ball fields, courts, etc.) preferred times/use for residents – unstructured play areas open for anyone

When city decided to go to community parks, it was understood that people would have to drive to it

Pine Avenue Park and Holiday Park well used

Most areas are built out and hilly, accessibility a problem

Focus should be on Barrio, downtown

City needs to work harder with schools to improve accessibility

Schools should become community centers – open 14-16 hrs/day

Should be 2-way – city parks should be used more for school activities

Reminded that we are doing city's general plan but we are _____ on school district authority _____ of conflict

Should GP consider schools function in park system?

It is _____ question that GP can address vs. should city be more _____ in _____ facility agreement

We want better utilization of parks, not more

Trails fill in gaps

Parks “Fit”; Parks Financing

Question 6: What parks and recreation programming needs should the city prioritize in order to improve “fit” between the population and available facilities and services?

Question 7: How can the city address the challenge of a financially-sustainable park maintenance system in the long-term, particularly as the city shifts from a developing to a mature, developed city?

Comments

Unmet recreational needs

Some cities have pay-for-play facilities, e.g. Poway Sports Complex, Bressi Swim Facility

Flexibility for park spaces to charge users in future – soccer fields may not be needed in future

Pyramid pricing for recreation services

Parks can give senior services, room, etc.

Suggested concept of community center needs to be re-thought

Parks and Trails Connections; Parks Safety; Access to Beaches and Lagoons

Question 8: With the City of Carlsbad approaching buildout, what strategies should the city pursue to provide the parks and trails connections to meet the community’s needs?

Question 9: What methods can the city use to ensure the safety of Carlsbad's parks, trails, and natural areas?

Question 10: How can public access to beaches and lagoons be improved?

Comments

City should prioritize acquiring missing _____ even if it means buying them – can't _____ for new development

Trails should better connect to destinations vs. short loops that don't really go anywhere

Public/private partnership – consider concessions along trails

Shuttle system through village shopping _____

Eco-tourism, connected trail system

Opportunities to connect pieces of trails (HOA, power company) – liability concerns – city can help with that

Trails should lead somewhere, place to go

Grant opportunities exist to acquire land for trails

City should be able to acquire up-front and collect from future development

City should have grant writer

Trail uncertainty, difficulty to get on, where to park, where does trail lead, is it easy, hard, etc.

Connectivity to beach – only two in downtown area

Pedestrian access across railroad tracks

Beach erosion – new techniques to retain sand

SANDAG _____

Union Tribune article – new game – cell phone scavenger hunt to get people to go to unused parts of park. Make it more interesting, engaging, educational

Del Mar wants to buy fairgrounds from state – does city want to buy state parks?
Do a better job of stewardship

State beaches not maintained as well as could

Strategies for city to take on more maintenance responsibility to enhance attractiveness

Beach Preservation Committee wants to get more sand

Expand _____

Three lagoons, beaches, improve trails

_____ benefits of great trail system, access

Agua Hedionda, Buena Vista – trouble getting sand dredged to put on beaches

Batiquitos – commit to annual dredges – regional, _____ city, federal government, lagoon foundation

SCCRA _____

Moving 1010 to east really provides opportunities for access _____

Is it appropriate to have commercial uses close to the beach? Restaurants, etc.?

Support concept of concessions, etc.

For 911 purpose, ID trails for 1st responders

Public access improvement